

AMAR
CHITRA
KATHA

BUMPER ISSUE No. 30 Rs. 20

JATAKA TALES

THE RIGHTFUL KING AND OTHER STORIES



JACKAL STORIES
THE HIDDEN TREASURE
TRUE FRIENDS

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JATAKA TALES

The Rightful King and other stories

The Jataka Tales are a veritable treasure of Indian folklore, legend and fable. Each time these popular stories are told, they acquire a new colour and fresh dimension. Besides being entertaining, the Jataka tales give us invaluable information about ancient Indian civilization, culture and philosophy.

The Jataka tales recount the stories of the previous incarnations of the Bodhisattva before he became the Buddha, or the enlightened one. The Bodhisattva came in many forms – man, monkey, elephant, lion, deer etc. Whatever his mortal form, in each story, the Bodhisattva spread the message of justice and wisdom. The present collection includes a selection of these fascinating folktales.

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Editor:
ANANT PAI

JACKAL STORIES -----

Script : Kamala Chandrakant
Artworks : Chandrakant Rane

HIDDEN TREASURE -----

Script : Meera Ugra
Artworks : M.N. Nangare

TRUE FRIENDS -----

Script : Margie Sastry
Artworks : V.B. Halbe



THE JACKAL AND THE RATS



ONE DAY, WHILE ROAMING IN THE FOREST IN SEARCH OF FOOD, A JACKAL SUDDENLY SPIED A TROOP OF RATS. THEIR KING WAS A HUGE BANDICOOT.



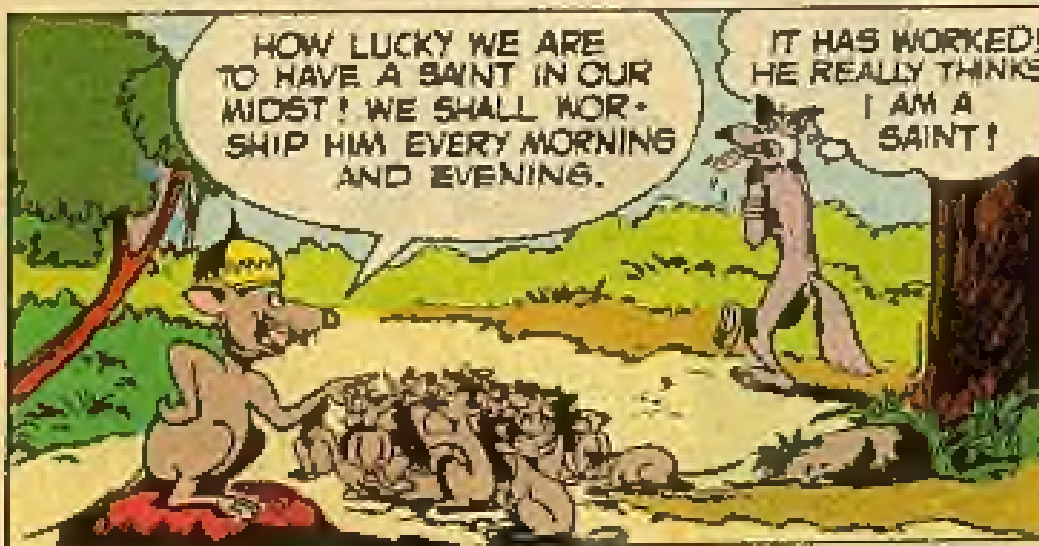
SO HE FOLLOWED THEM TO THEIR HOLE.



WHEN THE LAST OF THEM HAD GONE INTO THE HOLE, THE JACKAL STOOD OUTSIDE ON ONE LEG, HIS MOUTH OPEN AND HIS FACE TURNED TOWARDS THE SUN.



A LITTLE LATER, WHEN THE RATS CAME OUT AGAIN —

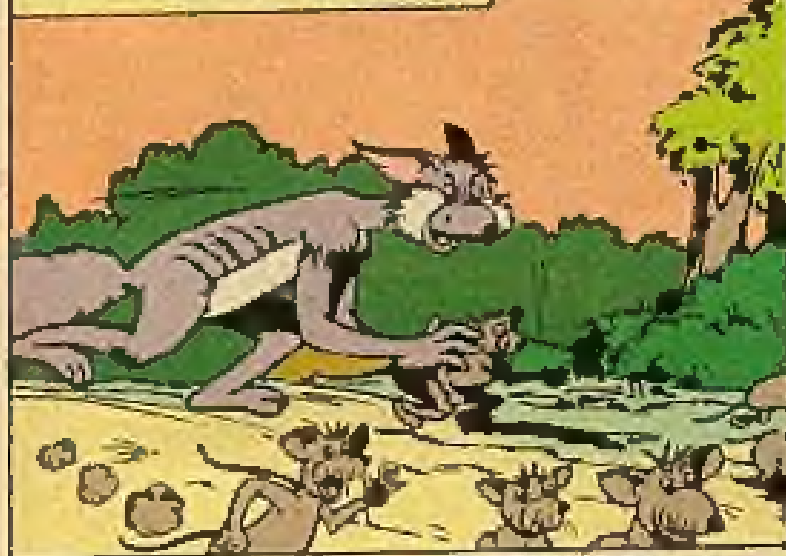




THEIR WORSHIP OVER, THE RATS TROOPED AWAY...



...WHILE THE JACKAL SWIFTLY SWOOPED UPON THE LAST OF THEM.



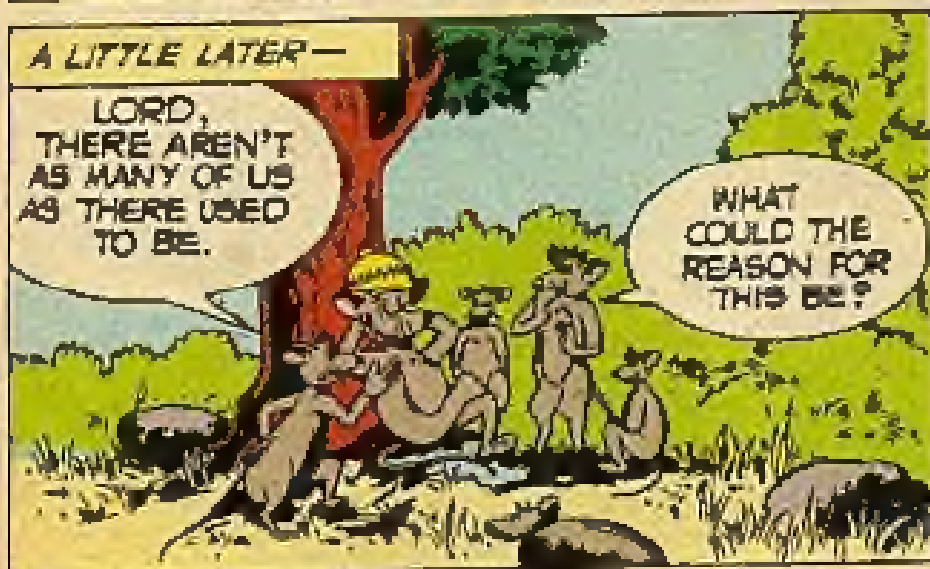
THIS WENT ON FOR MANY DAYS. THEN THE BANDICOOT NOTICED SOMETHING.



A LITTLE LATER—

LORD, THERE AREN'T AS MANY OF US AS THERE USED TO BE.

WHAT COULD THE REASON FOR THIS BE?



THE JACKAL HAS GROWN PLUMPER AND MY SUBJECTS FEWER! COULD THE JACKAL...? I'LL FIND OUT.

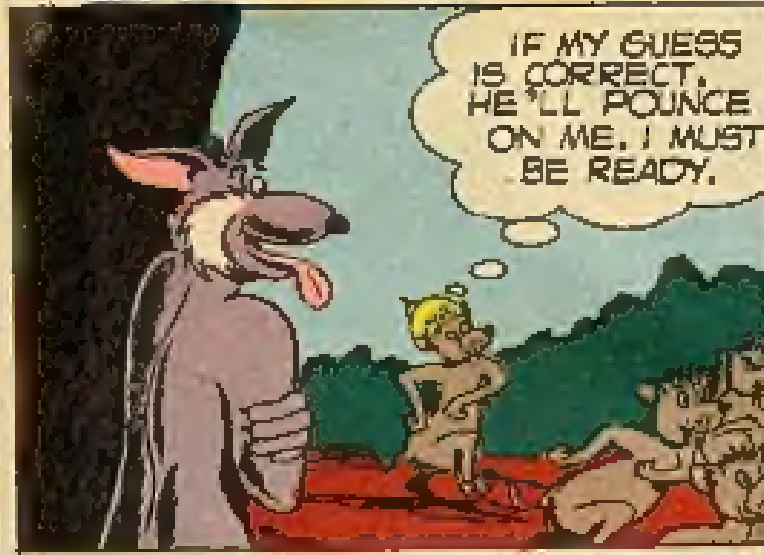


SO THAT EVENING AS THE RATS WERE
READY TO SET OUT—

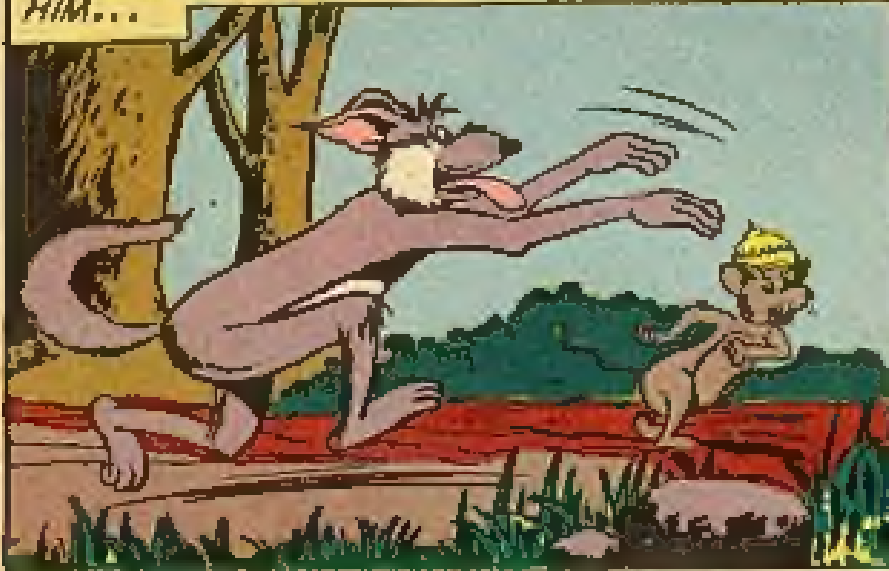
TODAY
ALL OF YOU GO
AHEAD. I'LL
COME OUT
LAST.



IF MY GUESS
IS CORRECT,
HE'LL POUNCE
ON ME. I MUST
BE READY.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE JACKAL SPRANG AT
HIM...



... BUT MISSED.

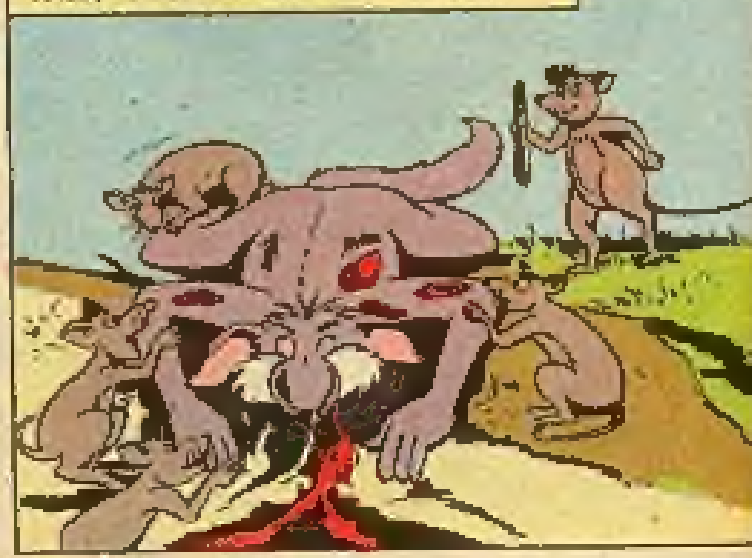
SO THIS
IS YOUR
GAME! YOU
RASCAL!



THE BANDICOOT DUG HIS TEETH INTO
THE JACKAL'S THROAT AND KILLED HIM.



BACK CAME ALL THE OTHER RATS AND
THEY HAD A GRAND FEAST.



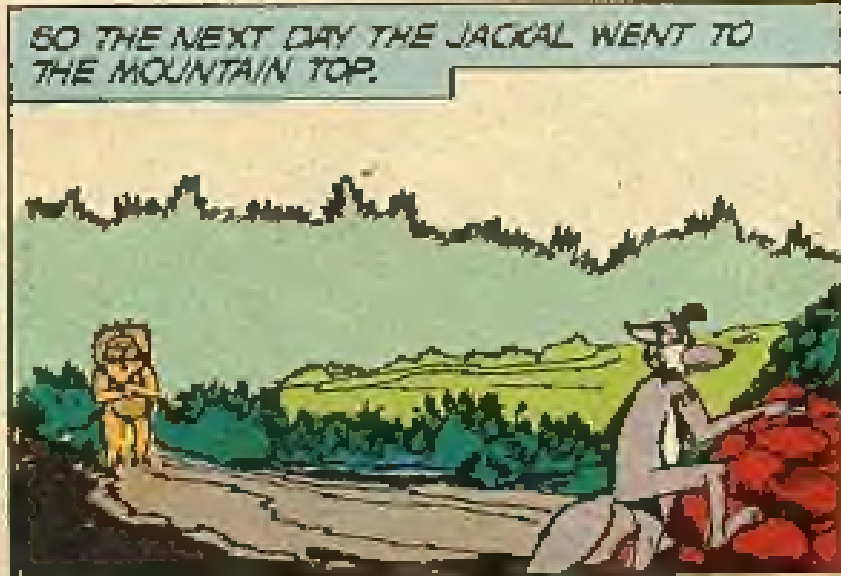
THE JACKAL AND THE LION



A HUNGRY JACKAL ONCE SUDDENLY CAME ACROSS A LION WHO WAS ON HIS WAY HOME.

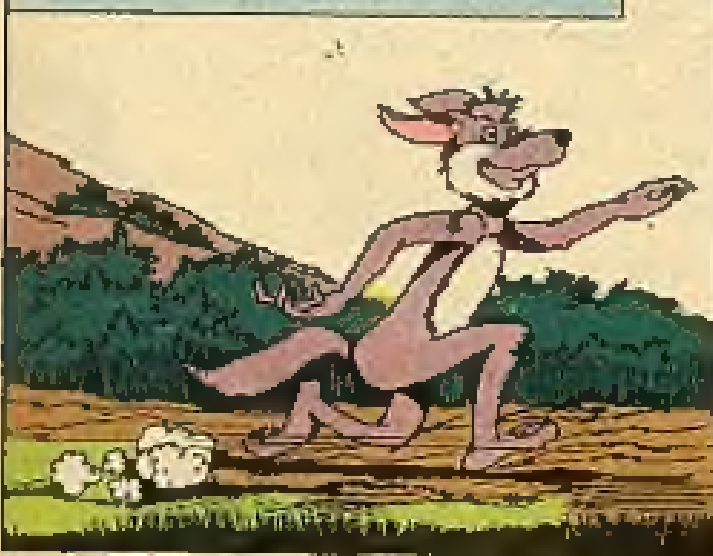


WHEN THEY REACHED THE LION'S DEN—





HE SPED BACK TO THE LION...



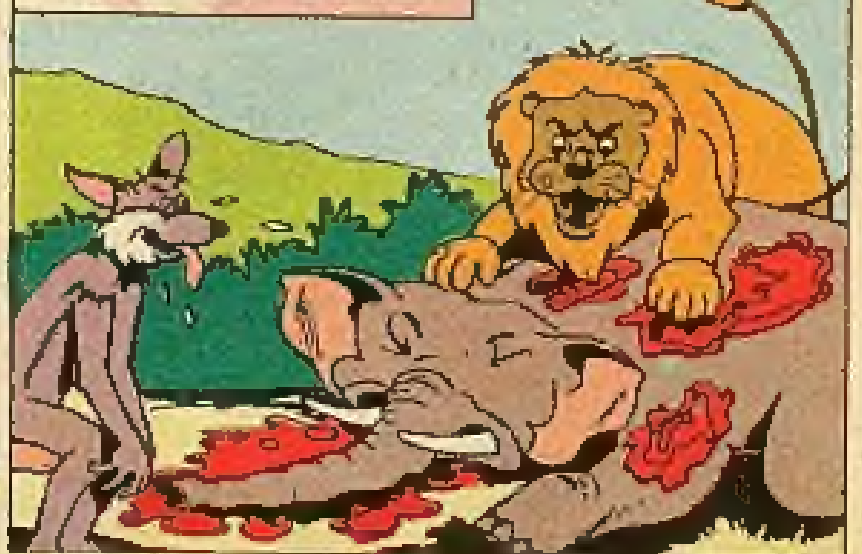
...AND FELL AT HIS FEET.



THE LION KILLED THE ELEPHANT...

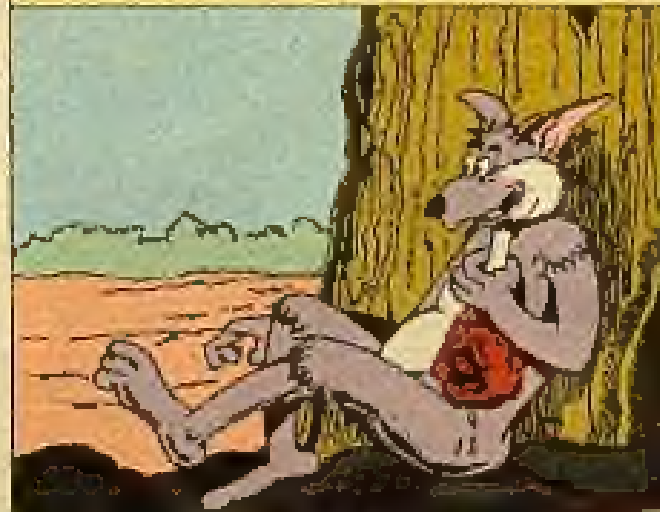


...AND ATE HIS FILL.



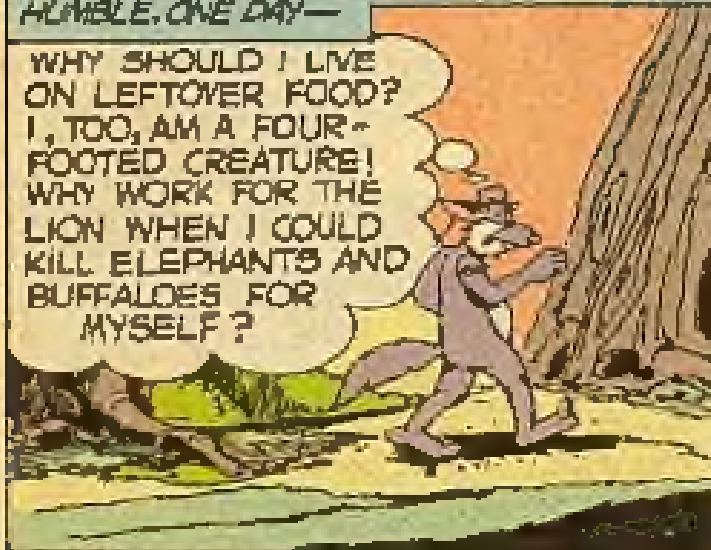


AS THE DAYS WENT BY, THE JACKAL GREW FATTER AND FATTER.



BUT, ALAS! HE GREW LESS AND LESS HUMBLE. ONE DAY—

WHY SHOULD I LIVE ON LEFTOVER FOOD? I, TOO, AM A FOUR-FOOTED CREATURE! WHY WORK FOR THE LION WHEN I COULD KILL ELEPHANTS AND BUFFALOES FOR MYSELF?



AFTER ALL, THE LION ONLY GETS HIS STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC PHRASE, "GO FORTH AND SHINE IN ALL YOUR MIGHT".



HE APPEALED TO THE LION.

MY LORD, I HAVE LIVED FOR TOO LONG ON WHAT YOU KILL. I WOULD LIKE TO EAT AN ELEPHANT I HAVE KILLED MYSELF.



THE LION WAS SILENT FOR A WHILE.

WHAT A FOOLISH IDEA! HE'LL BE KILLED HIMSELF!



O JACKAL, ONLY LIONS
CAN KILL ELEPHANTS
BUT UP THIS BILLY IDEA
AND BE HAPPY TO
EAT WHAT KILL

PLEASE, MY LORD, DON'T
DENY ME THIS CHANCE. I'LL
WAIT HERE, WHILE YOU
GO TO THE MOUNTAIN-
TOP.

WHEN YOU SEE AN
ELEPHANT, COME TO ME
AND SAY, "SHINE FORTH
IN ALL YOUR MIGHT, JACKAL."
AND I'M SURE TO
KILL IT.

AT LAST THE LION GAVE IN

ALL RIGHT
I'LL DO IT.

A LITTLE LATER, THE LION CAME BACK.

HAVE JUST SPIED
AN ELEPHANT COMING
THIS WAY SHINE FORTH
IN ALL YOUR MIGHT,
JACKAL

THE JACKAL
NIMBLY
DROPPED
AWAY...



... ON THE TRAIL OF THE ELEPHANT.

I'LL CATCH HIM
BY THE THROAT
AND KILL HIM.



HE SPRANG AT THE ELEPHANT.



... BUT MISSED HIM.



THE PUZZLED ELEPHANT
JUST WALKED OVER HIM...



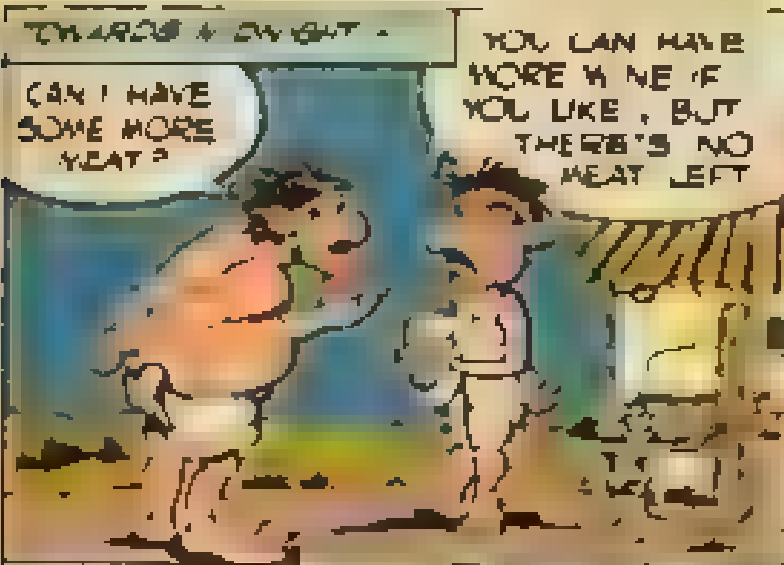
... AND THAT WAS THE END OF THE FOOLHARDY JACKAL.



THE CLEVER JACKAL



A GROUP OF ROGUES WERE ONCE HAVING A BONFIRE PARTY



TOWARDS NIGHT -

CAN I HAVE
SOME MORE
MEAT?

YOU CAN HAVE
MORE MEAT IF
YOU LIKE, BUT
THERE'S NO
MEAT LEFT



WHAT? NO MEAT?
BUT MUST
HAVE SOME!



I'LL GO TO THE
CHARNEL-GROVE, KILL
A PROWLING JACKAL,
AND BRING YOU ITS
MEAT.



CLUB Y HAD, THE BRAGGART ENCHAINED OFF

WHEN HE REACHED
THE GROVE —

I'LL PRETEND
'M A CORPSE, THAT
WILL ATTRACT JACKALS
AND KEEP AWAY LIONS
AND TIGERS.

WHEN A JACKAL
COMES NEAR, I'LL
KILL HIM WITH
MY CLUB.

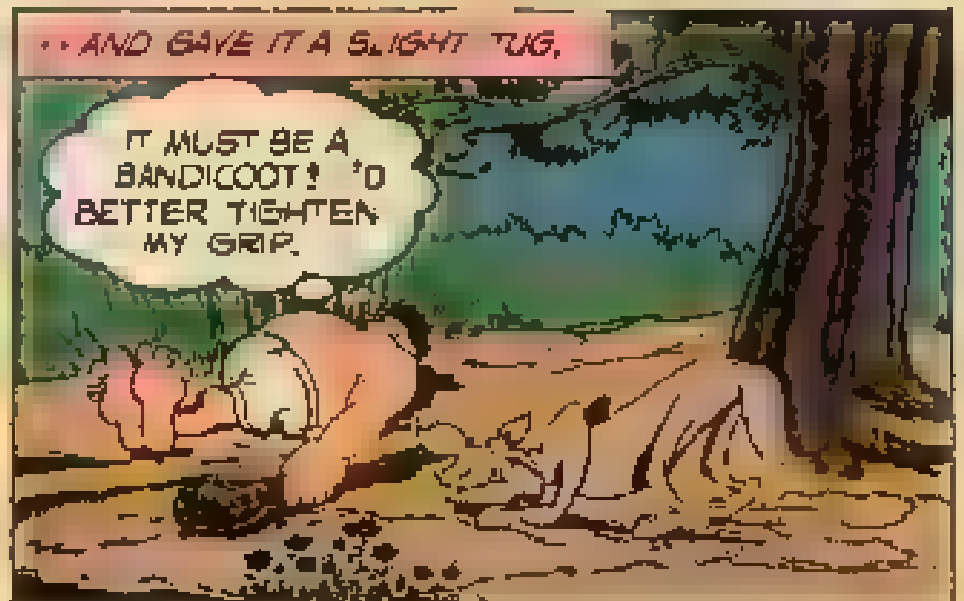
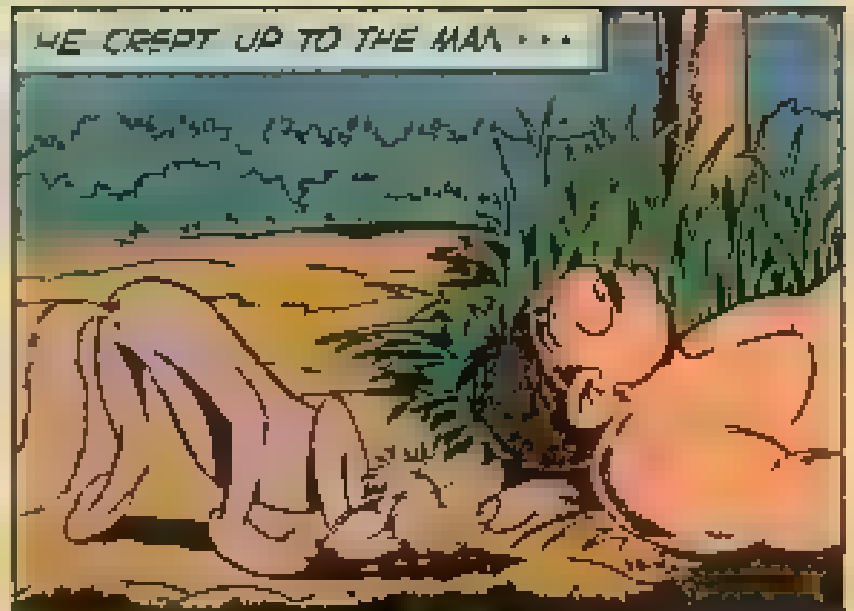
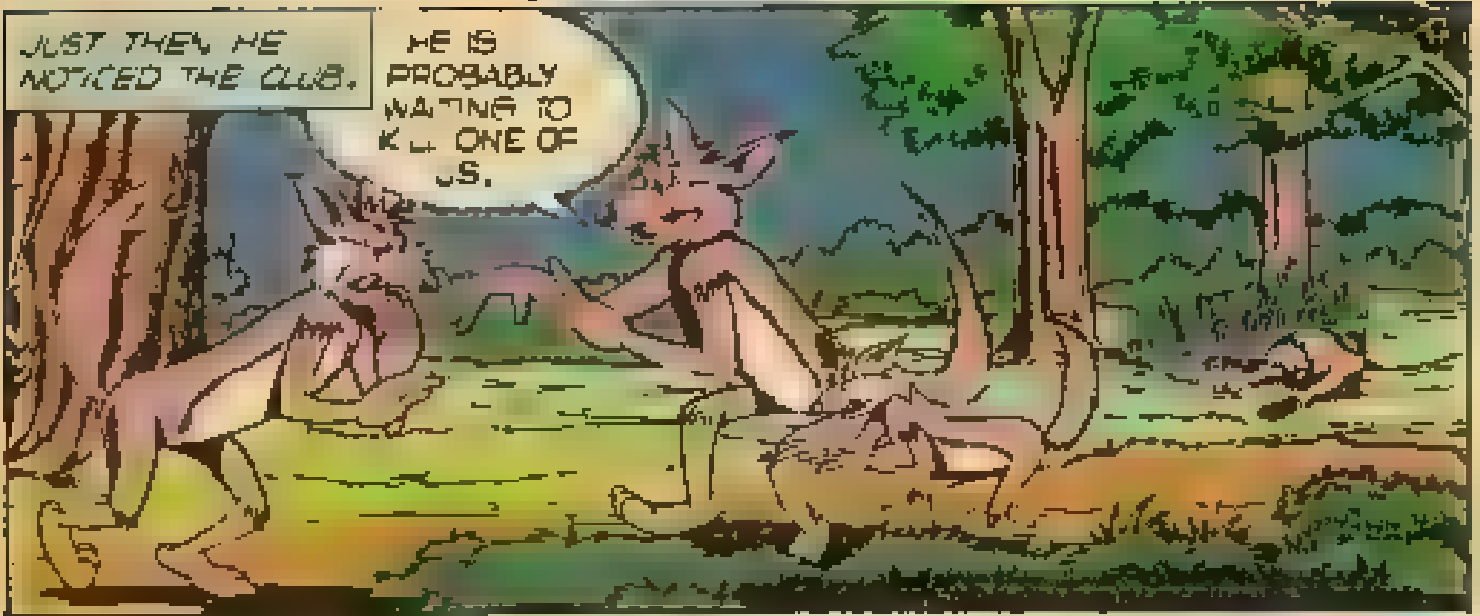
A LITTLE LATER, A PACK OF JACKALS CAME BY.

LOOK, THERE'S
A CORPSE
COME ON!

WAIT! LET ME
MAKE SURE WE'RE
SAFE

SMELL!
SMELL!

THE SMELL
OF A LIVING
MAN, JUST AS
THOUGHT HE IS
ONLY PRETENDING
TO BE DEAD.



THE NEXT MOMENT THE JACKAL LET GO OF THE CLUB WITH A LERK



THE STARTLED ROGUE JUMPED TO HIS FEET,
FLUNG HIS CLUB AT THE JACKAL.



... AND I SSED.



I DARE NOT
FACE MY FRIENDS
AFTER MY
VAN BIAS.



I'D BETTER
GO HOME AND
SLEEP.



THE JACKAL AND THE MAGIC SPELL



AS HE WALKED ON AT A DISTANCE, THE BRAHMAN HEARD A JACKAL WHISPERING, "I HAVE MASTERED THE SPELL."

A JACKAL LYING NEAR BY PRICKED UP HIS EARS.

"I HAVE MASTERED THE SPELL."



A LITTLE LATER THE BRAHMAN STOPPED

AND SAID, "I HAVE MASTERED THE SPELL."



THE NEXT MOMENT, TO HIS SURPRISE A JACKAL STOOD BEFORE HIM

"NO! BRAHMAN, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE MASTERED THE SPELL BETTER THAN I."



AND OFF HE RAN THE NEXT DAY AFTER HIM

"I MUST CATCH HIM OR I WILL LOSE MY SPELL."



BUT THE JACKAL ESCAPED DEEP INTO THE FOREST.

I'LL FIRST GET MARRIED AND THEN, USING THE SPELL, I'LL BRING ALL THE FOUR FOOTED CREATURES OF THE FOREST UNDER MY SWAY



HE SOON FOUND HIMSELF A SHE-JACKAL

IF YOU BECOME MY WIFE YOU SHALL BE QUEEN OF ALL THE ANIMALS OF THE FOREST

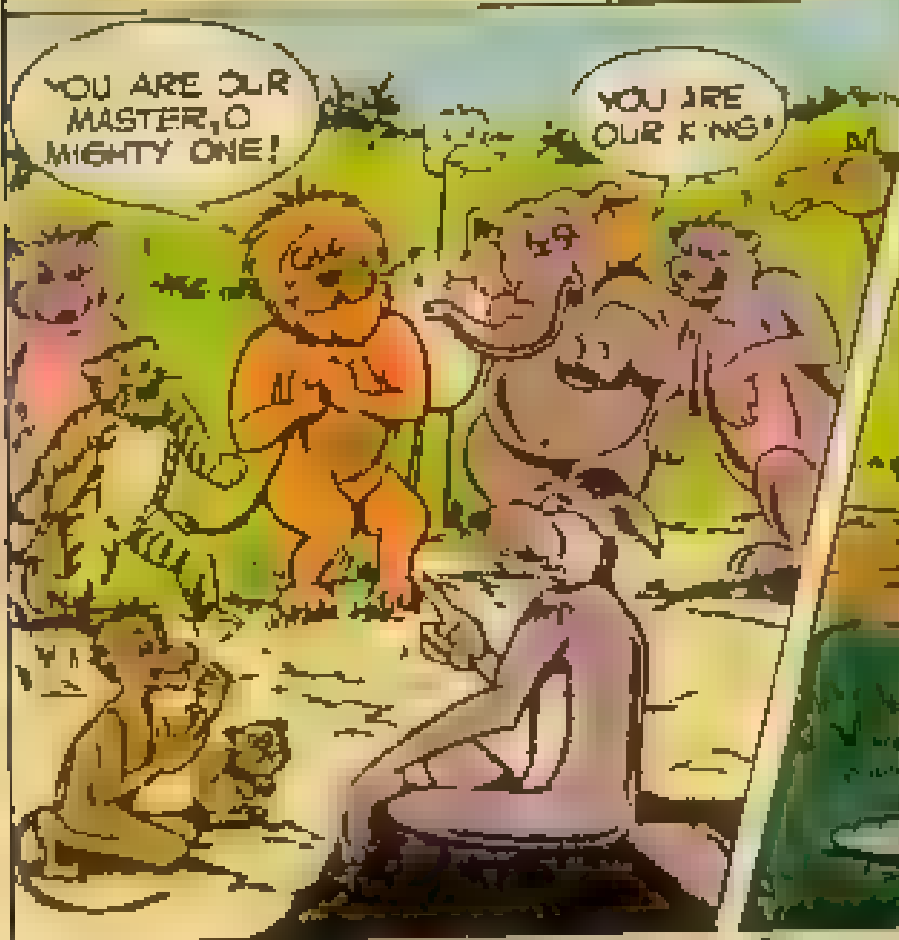
I'M W - NG



LATER HE UTTERED THE SPELL AND ALL THE ANIMALS BEGAN TO FLOCK TOWARDS HIM.

YOU ARE OUR MASTER, O MIGHTY ONE!

YOU ARE OUR KING!



THEY BEATED THE JACKAL AND HIS WIFE IN A LONG ARCH STOOD ON TWO FEET



THEY WALKED A TITTLE ON THE LAKE AND RIVER TO HIM

HAL SARVADATA,
CHOSEN KING OF
THE ANIMALS!

HAL!



THE KING OF THE WILD

WE DIRECTS,
WE CAN
GO TO THE
CITY OF
VARANAS.



SO HE WENT TO THE CITY AND
MARCHED TO VARANAS.

HE WALKED
HERE AND SEND A
MESSAGE TO
THE KING.

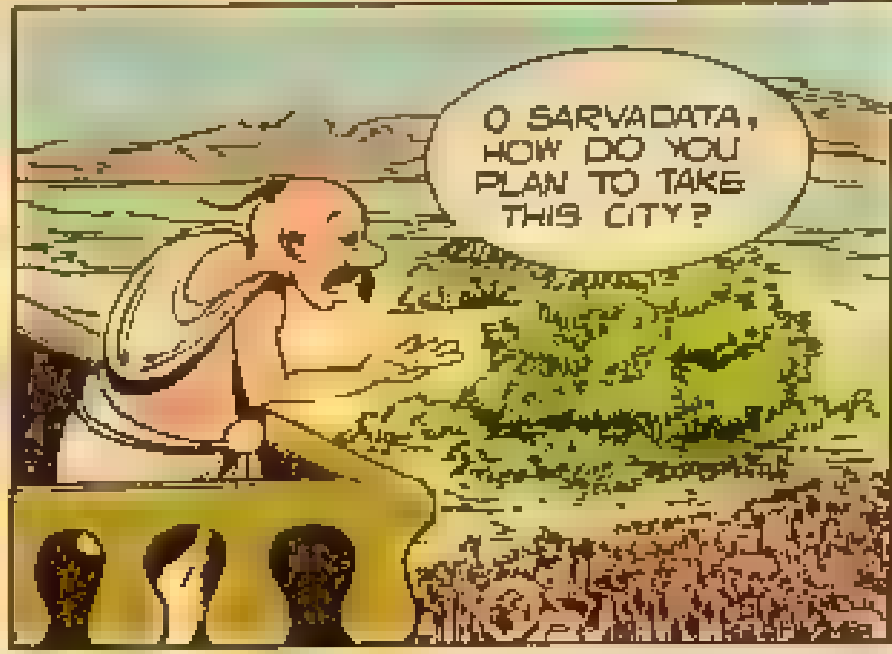
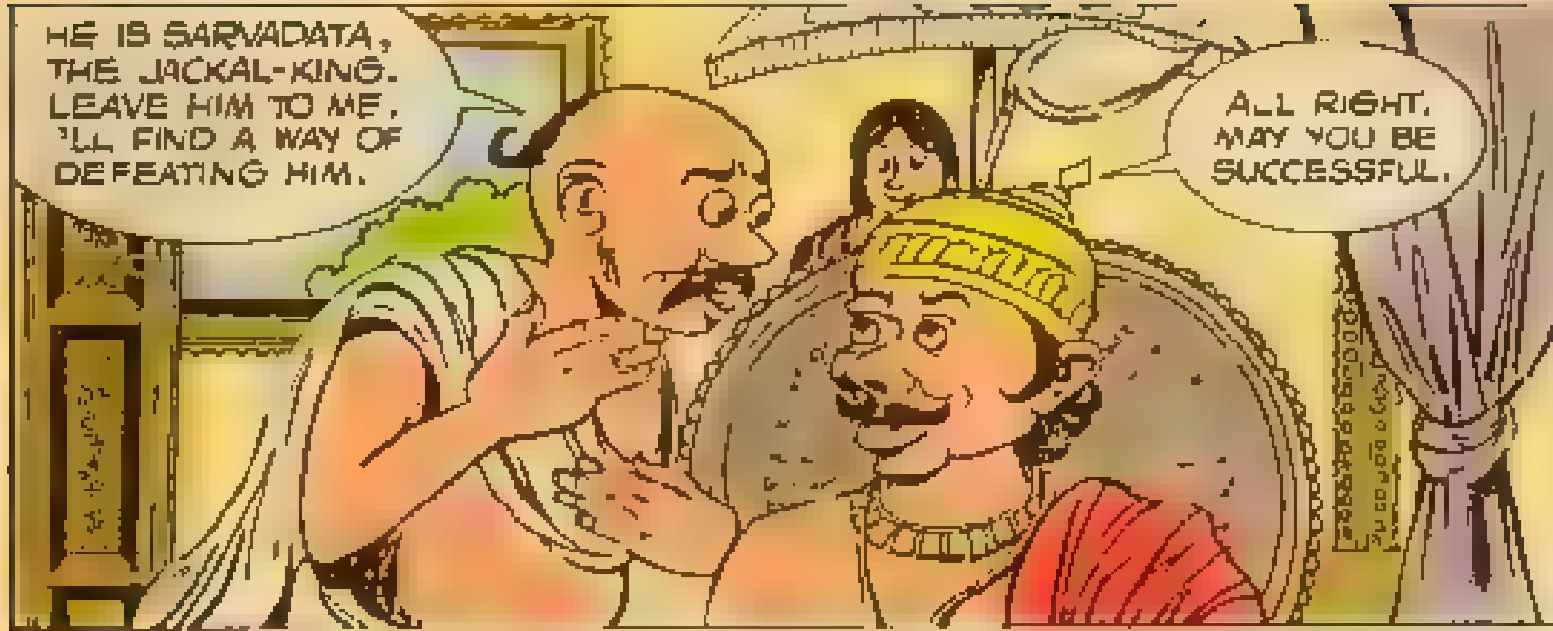


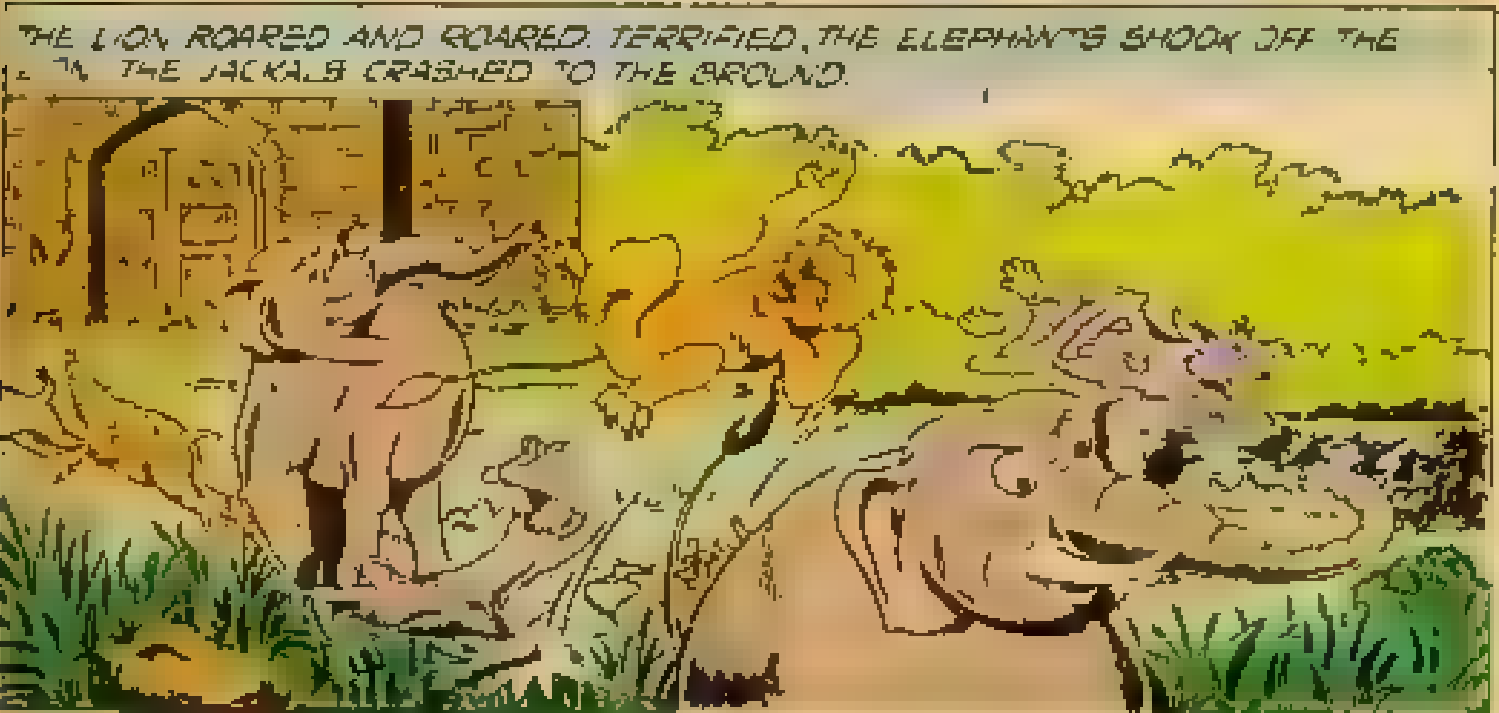
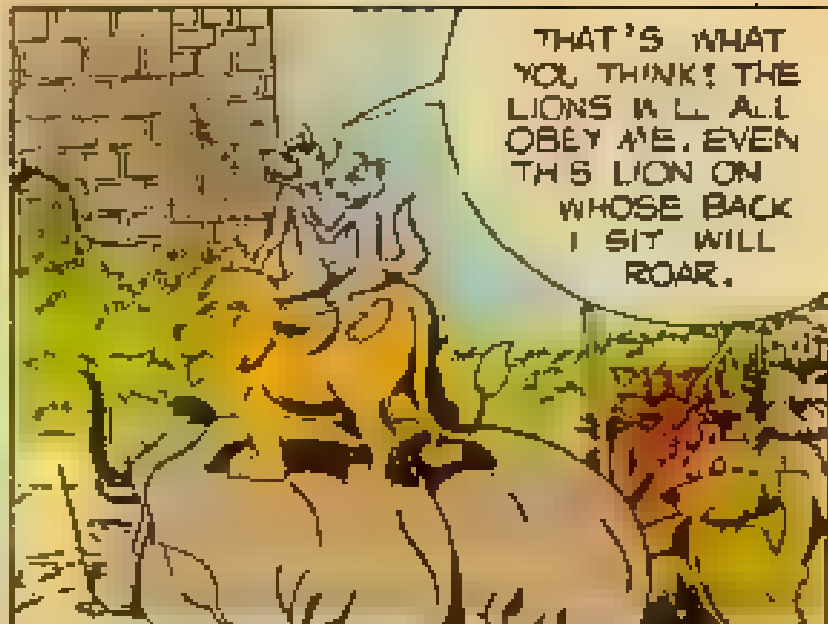
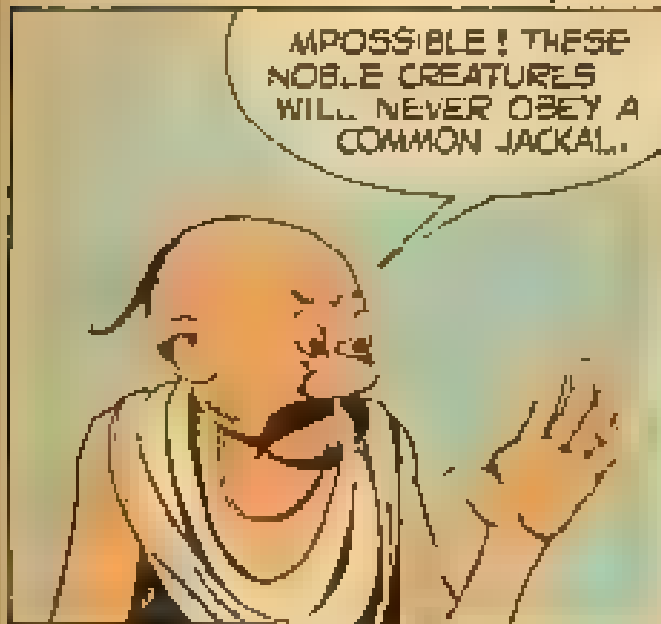
HE THEN WENT TO THE CITY OF
VARANAS AND MET THE KING.



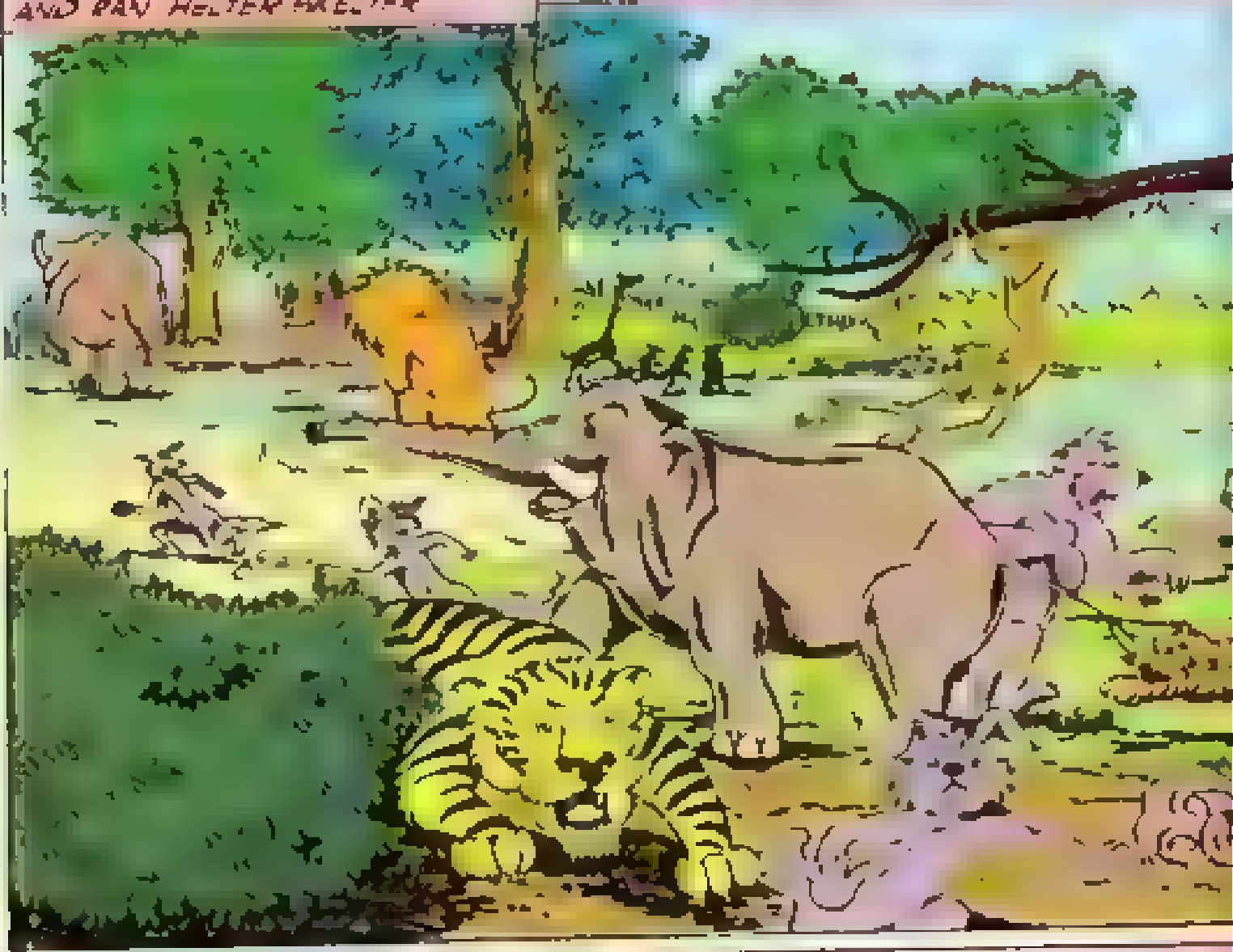
HE WENT TO THE
CITY OF VARANAS
AND MET THE KING.
COVERS AN AREA
OF THE CITY OF
VARANAS.



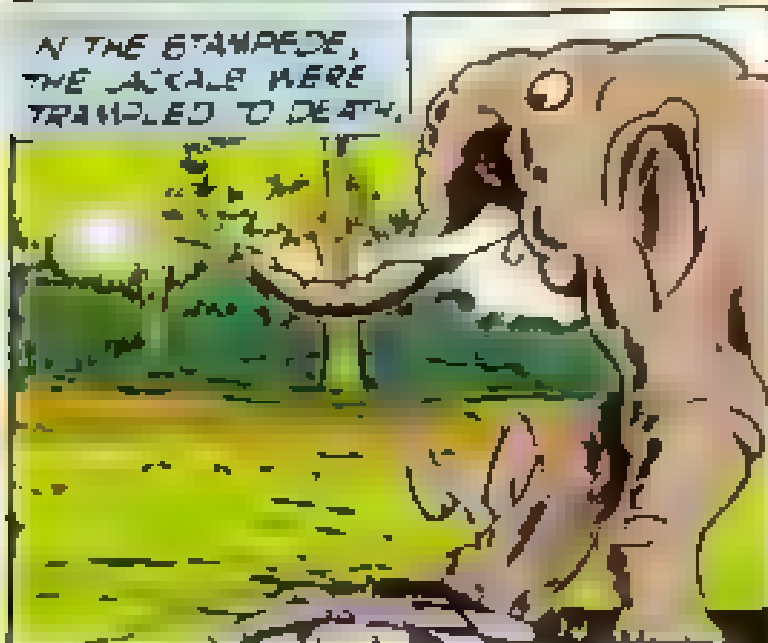




SEEING THE ELEPHANTS RUN AWAY, ALL THE ANIMALS BROKE TO A SCAMP AND RAN HELTER SKELTHER



IN THE STAMPEDE, THE JACKALS WERE TRAMPLED TO DEATH.



THAT WAS THE END OF A JACKAL WHO HAD DARED TO DREAM OF CONQUERING THE ELEPHANTS.



THE JACKAL AND THE OTTERS

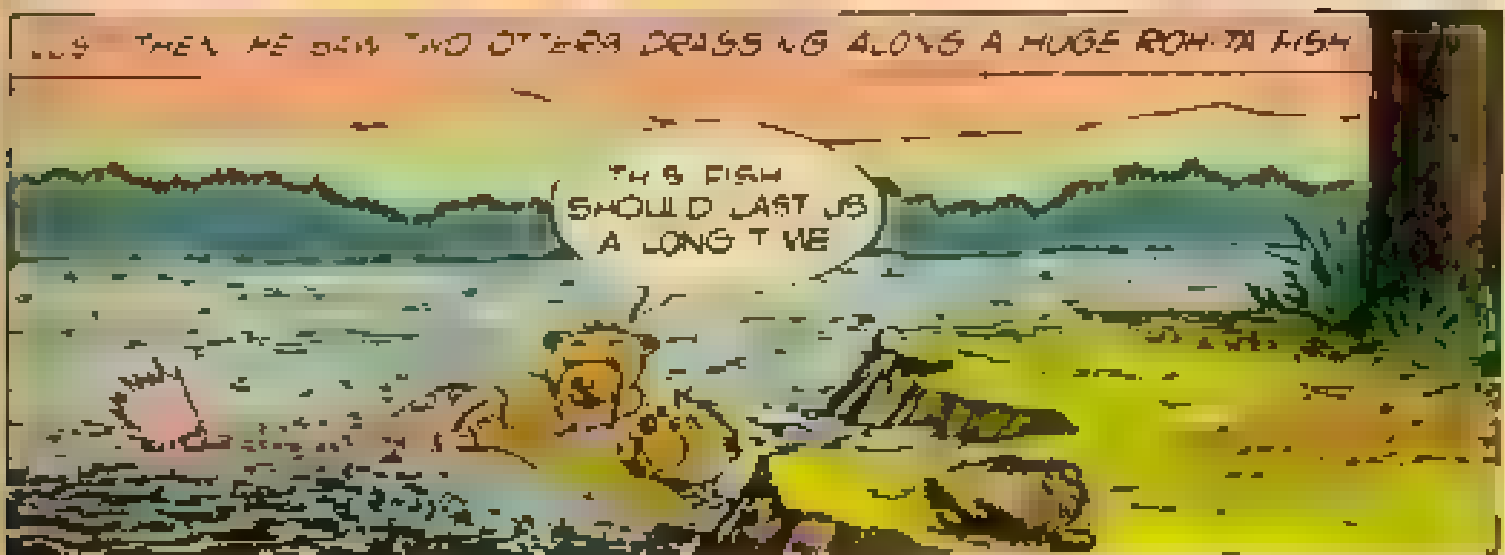


A JACKAL'S WIFE ONCE WANTED TO EAT SOME FRESH ROH-TA FISH. PROMISING TO BRING IT FOR HER, THE JACKAL WENT TO THE RIVER.



I'VE PROMISED TO BRING HER THE FISH BUT HOW AM I GOING TO DO IT?

THEN HE SAW TWO OTTERS DRAGGING ALONG A HUGE ROH-TA FISH

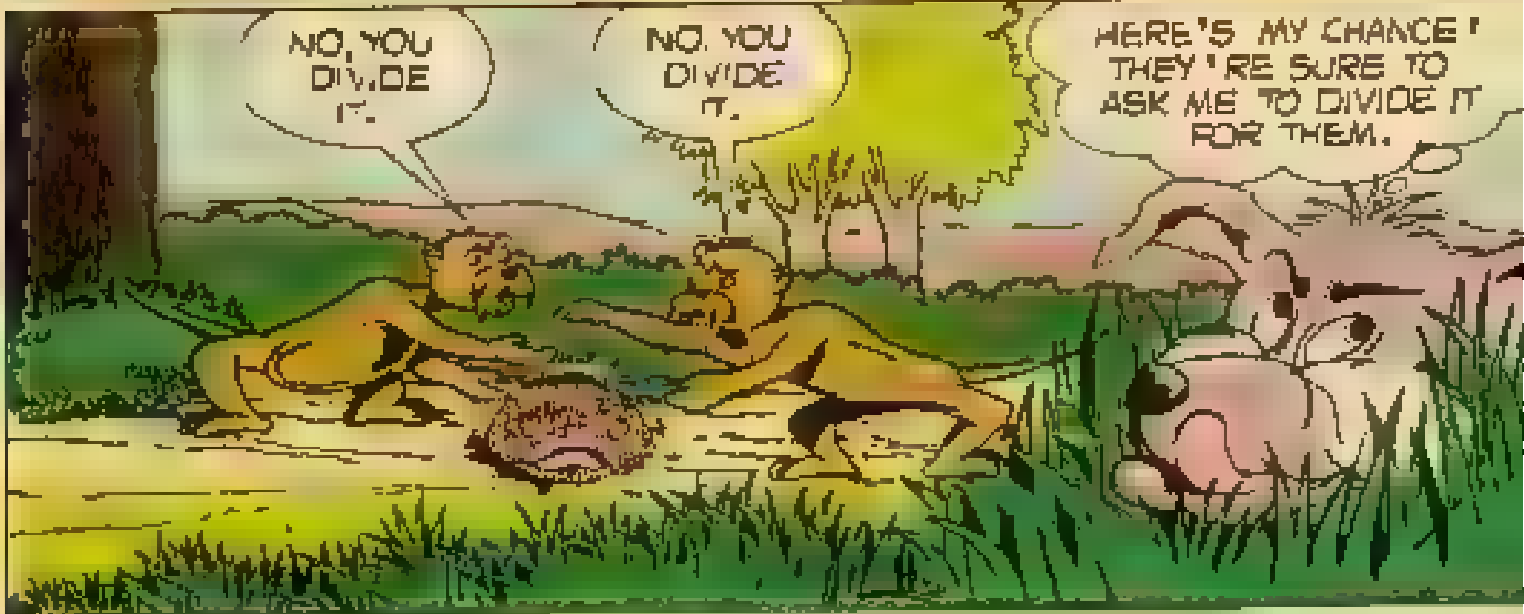


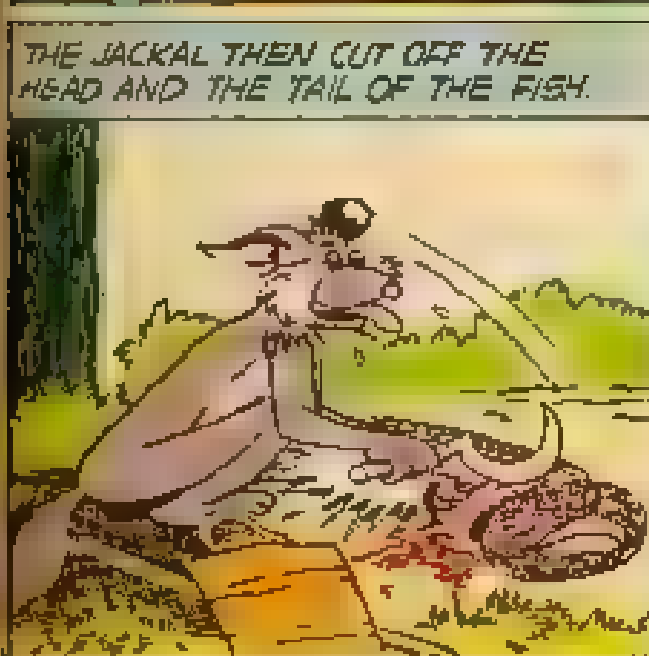
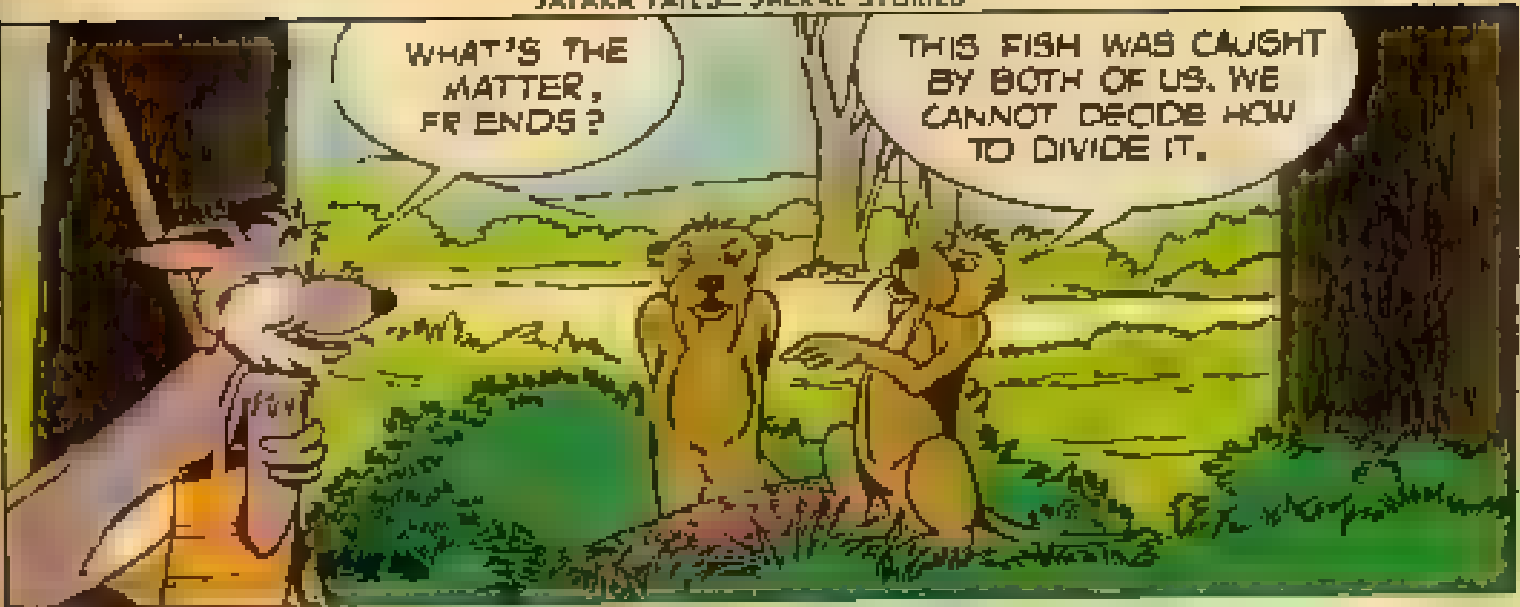
THIS FISH SHOULD LAST US A LONG TIME

THE JACKAL DREW NEARER.

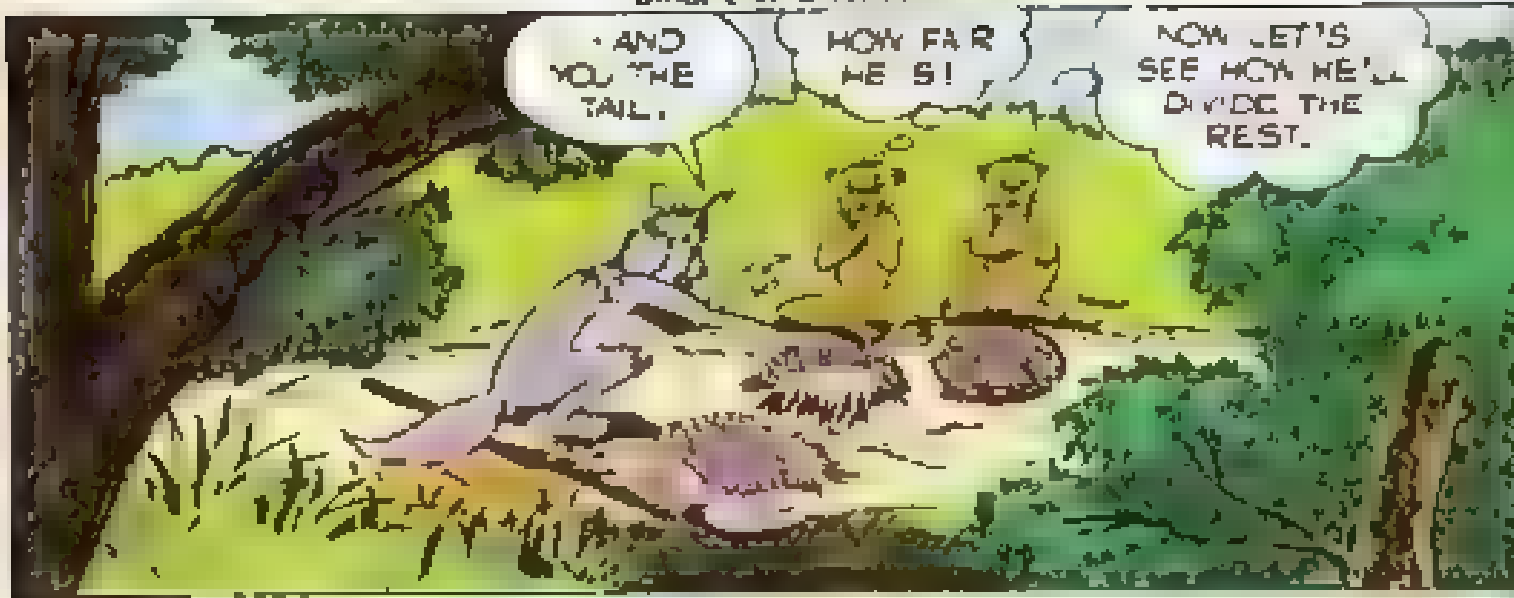
YES, BUT HOW
SHALL WE
DIVIDE IT?

F, DIVIDE T, I'LL
HAVE TO GIVE HIM
THE LARGER
SHARE.





amar ching wihai



AND YOU THE TAIL.

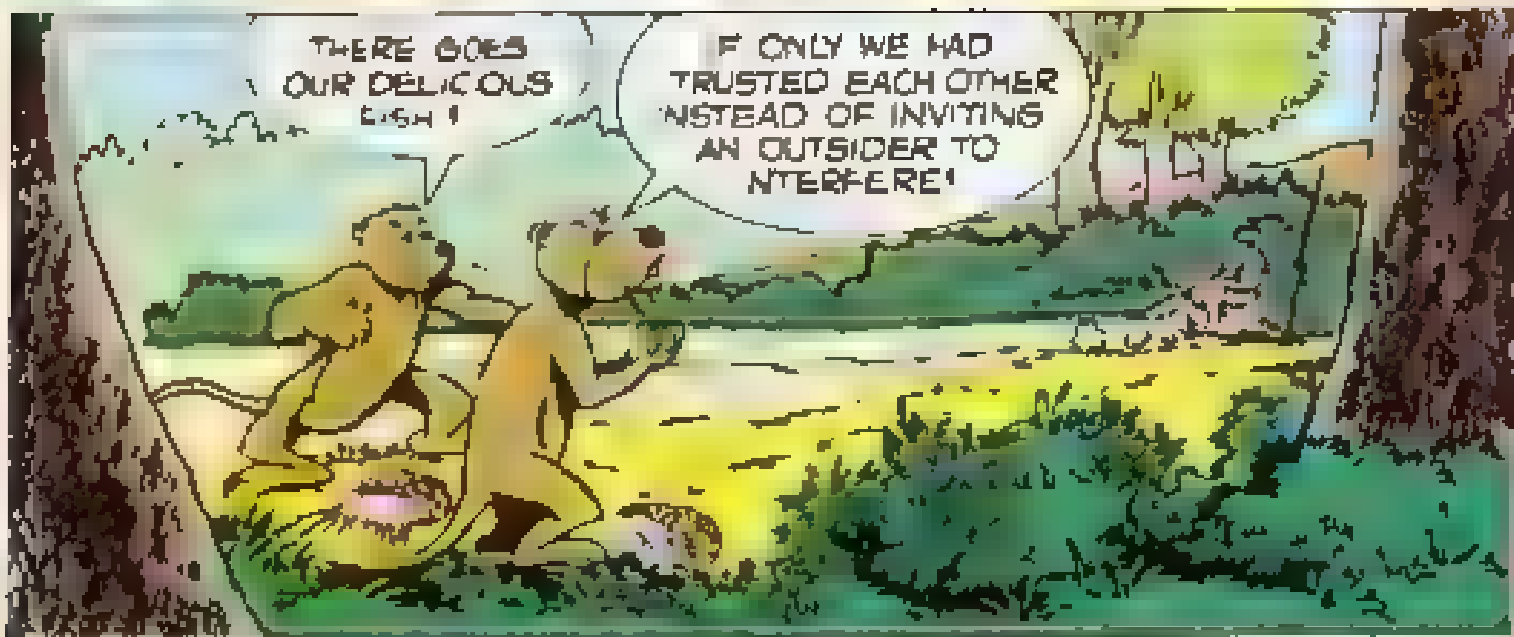
HOW FAR HE IS!

NOW LET'S SEE HOW HE'LL DIVIDE THE REST.



THIS SHA-
KEED AS MY
LEG!

AND BEFORE THEIR VERY EYES HE RAN
OFF WITH THE BEST PORTION OF THE FISH



THERE GOES
OUR DELICIOUS
FISH!

IF ONLY WE HAD
TRUSTED EACH OTHER
INSTEAD OF INVITING
AN OUTSIDER TO
INTERFERE!

THE JACKAL AND THE SHE-GOAT



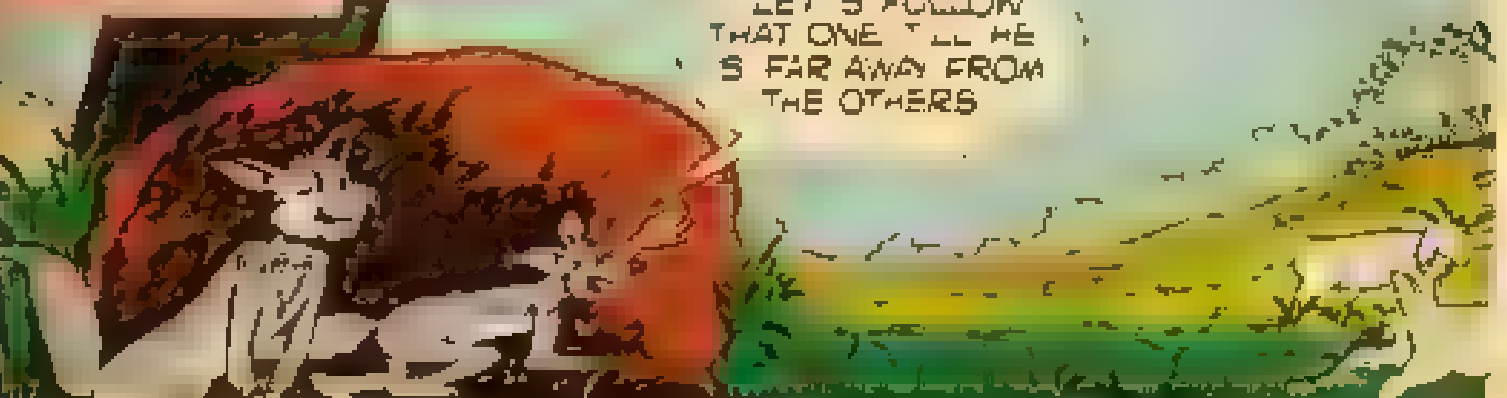
LONG AGO IN A LAKE ON THE SLOPES OF THE HIMALAYAS, THERE LIVED A HERD OF WILD GOATS ONE DAY, AS A JACKAL AND HIS MATE WERE PROWLING ABOUT FOR FOOD, THEY SAW THE GOATS GRAZING.



COME! LET
US KILL ONE
OF THEM

WAIT! IF WE ARE
CLEVER, WE'LL HAVE
FOOD ENOUGH FOR
MANY MONTHS.

THEY WAITED TILL THE GOATS
BEGAN TO MOVE APART
AS THEY GRAZED.



LET'S FOLLOW
THAT ONE 'TILL HE
IS FAR AWAY FROM
THE OTHERS

A FEW HOURS LATER —

THERE! I'VE
KILLED HIM NOW
HELP ME DRAG
HIM TO OUR
CAVE.

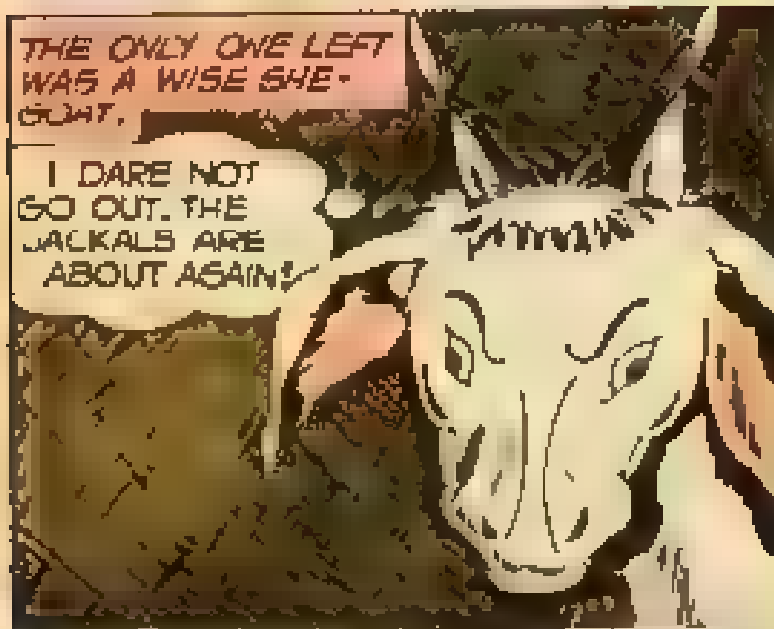


MANY MONTHS PASSED AND, ONE BY ONE, THE
GOATS WERE EATEN BY THE JACKALS.



THE ONLY ONE LEFT
WAS A WISE SHE-
GOAT.

I DARE NOT
GO OUT. THE
JACKALS ARE
ABOUT AGAIN!



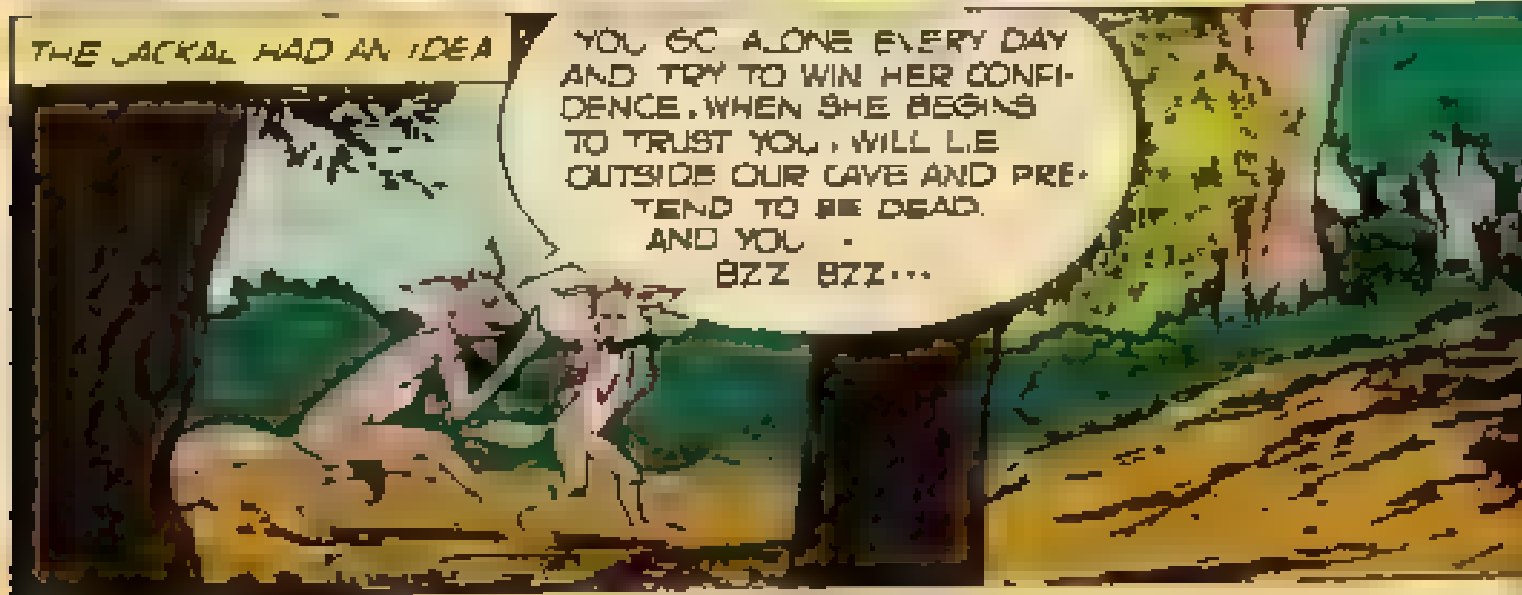
THAT SHE-GOAT
SEEMS TO BE WISE
TO US SHE DOES
NOT COME OUT
AT ALL




THE JACKAL HAD AN IDEA

YOU GO ALONE EVERY DAY
AND TRY TO WIN HER CONFIDENCE. WHEN SHE BEGINS
TO TRUST YOU, WILL LIE
OUTSIDE OUR CAVE AND PRE-
TEND TO BE DEAD.

AND YOU -
BZZ BZZ...




EAGER TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN, THE SHE-JACKAL HASTENED TO THE GOAT'S CAVE



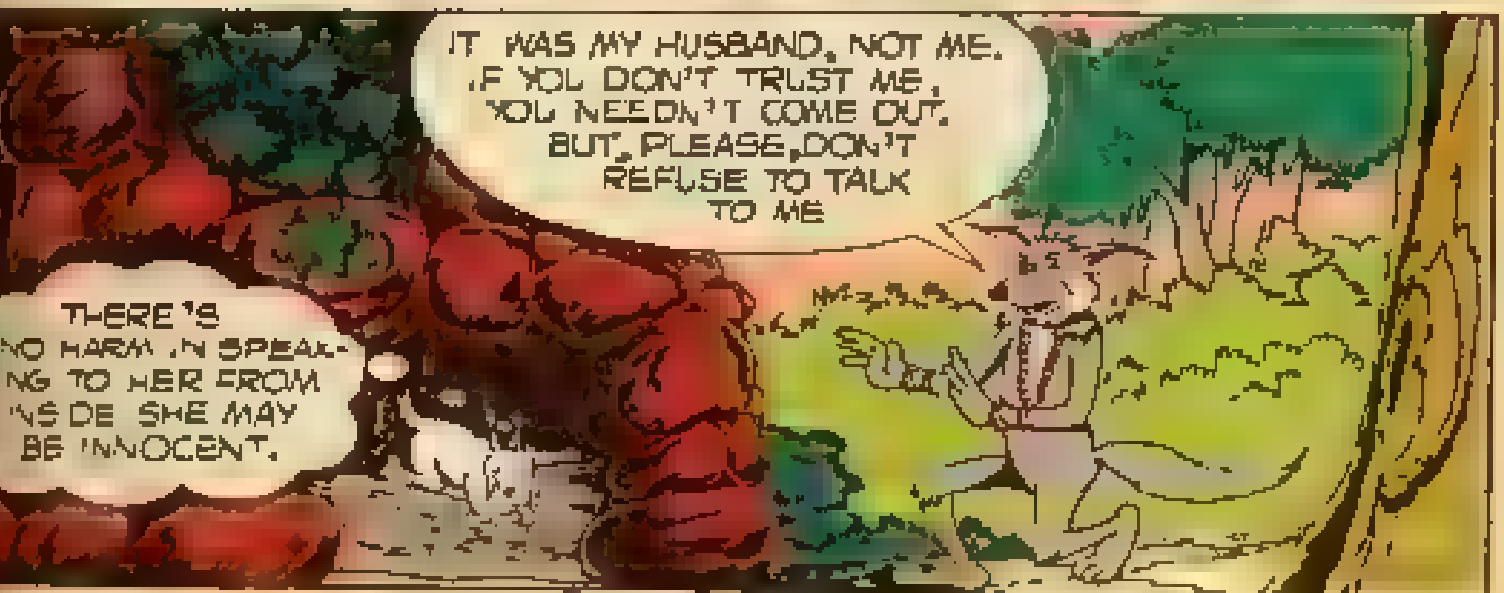
O WISE GOAT,
DO YOU LIVE
HERE ALL
ALONE?

IT'S THE
WIFE OF THE
JACKAL!



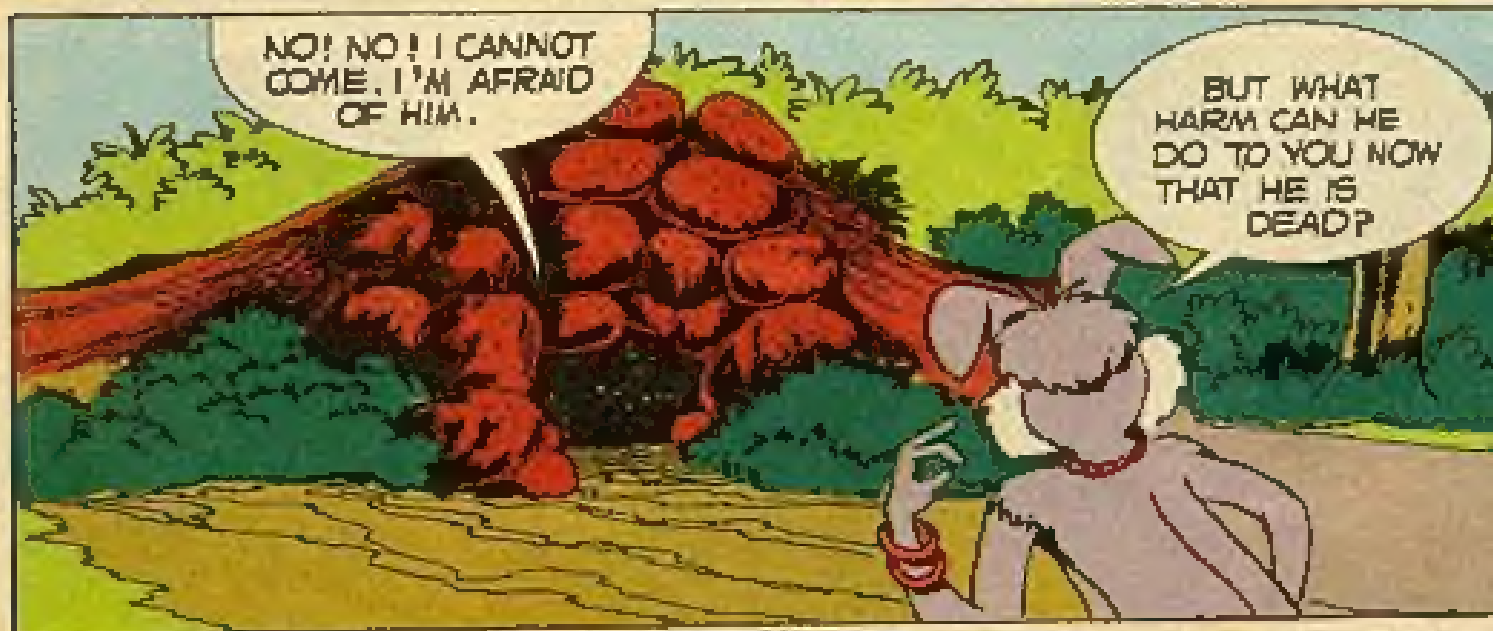
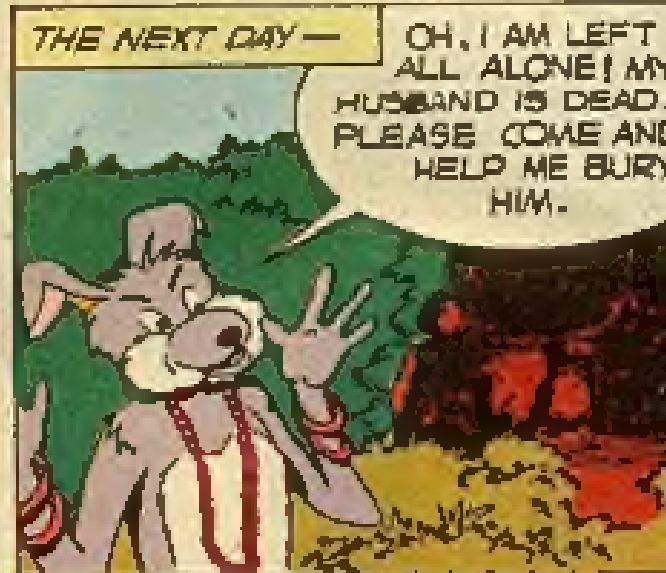
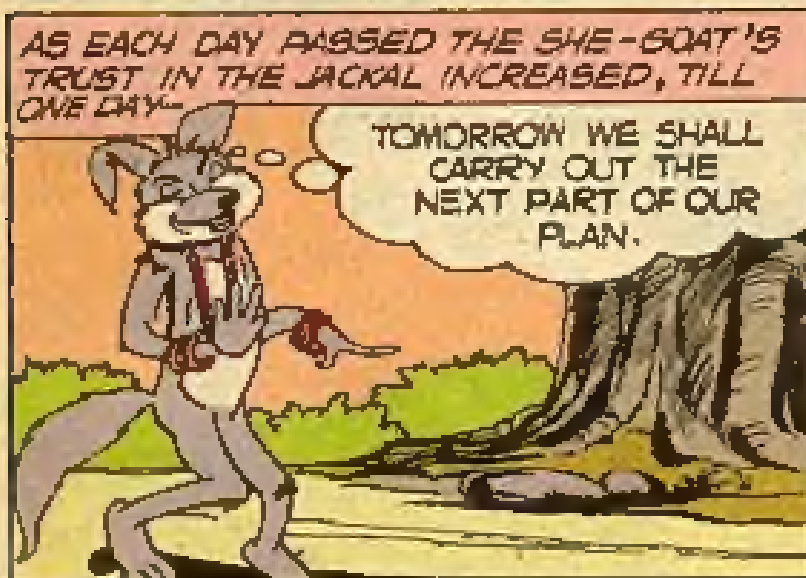
PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID.
I'VE COME TO MAKE
FRIENDS WITH YOU
PLEASE COME
OUT.

NO! I DON'T
TRUST YOU. GO
AWAY. YOU
KILLED ALL MY
RELATIVES.



IT WAS MY HUSBAND, NOT ME.
IF YOU DON'T TRUST ME,
YOU NEEDN'T COME OUT.
BUT, PLEASE, DON'T
REFUSE TO TALK
TO ME

THERE'S
NO HARM IN SPEAK-
ING TO HER FROM
INSIDE SHE MAY
BE INNOCENT.



DEAD OR ALIVE, HE'S
CRUEL AND I'M
AFRAID TO COME
OUT.

AND I HAD
THOUGHT YOU WERE
MY FRIEND! HOW
UNFORTUNATE I AM
THAT I MUST BURY
MY HUSBAND ALL
BY MYSELF!

SHE CAN'T BE
LYING. HE MUST
REALLY BE
DEAD.

DON'T WEEP,
MY FRIEND.
I'LL COME
WITH YOU.

AS THEY WERE ABOUT TO SET OUT,
HOWEVER, THE SHE-GOAT SUDDENLY
BECAME DOUBTFUL AGAIN.

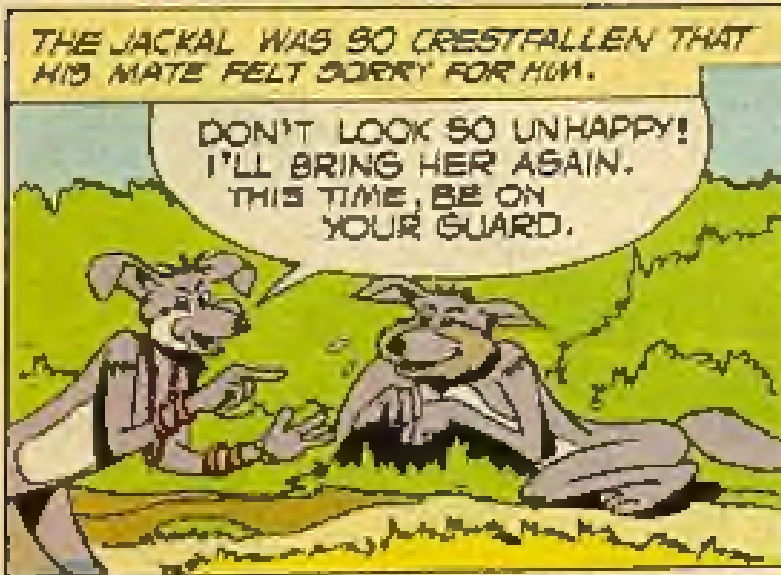
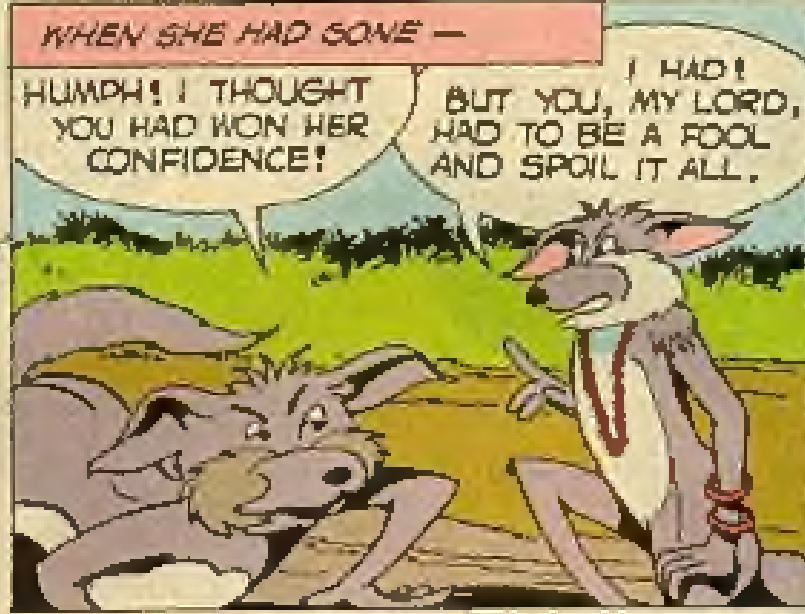
FRIEND, YOU WALK AHEAD
AND SHOW ME THE WAY.
I'LL FOLLOW.

A LITTLE LATER—

AH, FOOTSTEPS!
HERE THEY
COME.

HE FORGOT THAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO PLAY
DEAD, AND OPENED HIS EYES TO LOOK AT THE
PLUMP GOAT.

HE'S
ALIVE!



THE RUSE WORKED.

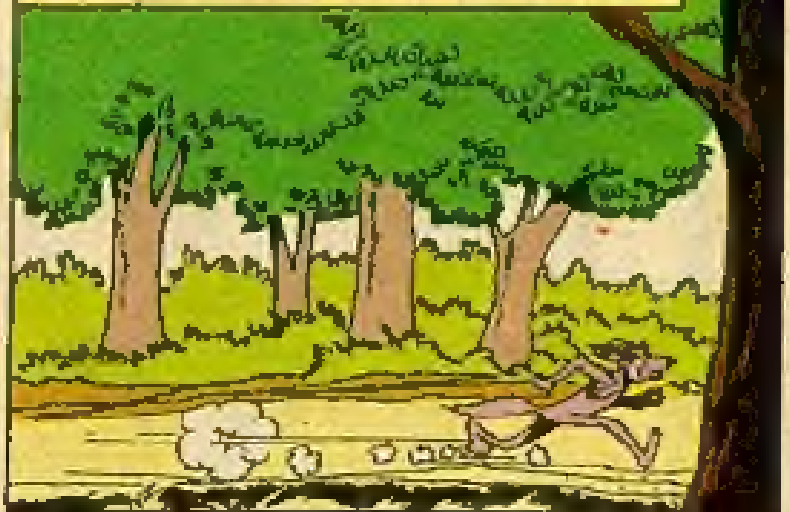
TWO THOUSAND DOGS! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS GOAT.

DEAR FRIEND, I'VE CHANGED MY MIND. YOU'D BETTER NOT COME. YOUR CAVE MIGHT BE BURGLED WHILE YOU ARE AWAY.

BUT I WANT TO COME AND....



THEN SHE RAN FOR HER LIFE...



...TILL SHE REACHED HER MATE.

QUICK! WE MUST RUN, OR ELSE WE'LL MAKE A MEAL FOR TWO THOUSAND DOGS!

TWO THOUSAND DOGS!

THE JACKAL AND HIS MATE TOOK TO THEIR HEELS, AND THEY WERE NOT SEEN OR HEARD OF EVER AGAIN.

